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Invitations show enthusiasm for Great Places; coaches dispatched across the state

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs announced today it received 145 invitations from places wanting to partner with the state to become “Great Places” through the Iowa Great Places initiative. About 75 coaches from throughout state government are being dispatched in teams to all the places that submitted invitations. Coaches will work with the places throughout the summer to help them move their Great Place visions forward.

“The number – and the quality – of the invitations we received show the tremendous enthusiasm for Great Places,” Department of Cultural Affairs Director Anita Walker said. “Iowans clearly accepted the challenge to think about what was genuine and authentic about their places and dream about what it would take to make them great places.”

Coaches will help places identify next steps and assess their readiness to present offers to the Great Places Citizen Advisory Board to be considered one of the pilot Great Places. The board will select three pilots in early October.

“Each and every one of the 145 places that extended invitations will benefit from the Great Places initiative through the coaching process and new training opportunities,” Walker said. “The three pilot Great Places will be part of our learning laboratory in this first year of Great Places, during which the state will explore coordinated, focused ways to deliver technical and financial assistance to deliver powerful results.”

Citizen Advisory Board:

Robin Anderson
Mason City

David Bernstein
Sioux City

Claire Celsi
Des Moines

Samantha Erickson
Pleasant Hill

Mark Ginsberg
Iowa City

Tom Hanafan
Council Bluffs

Quentin Hart
Waterloo

Terry Lynch
Marion

Bill Menner
Grinnell

Gil Spence
Dubuque

Amanda Styron
Mount Pleasant

Rita Vargas
Davenport

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iowagreatplaces.gov

Governor Tom Vilsack announced the Great Places initiative in his 2005 Condition of the State address, challenging state agencies and Iowans to be bold and creative and develop new partnerships for turning neighborhoods, communities, districts, regions and other areas into great places where people want to live, work, stay and play. A team representing 18 state agencies designed a Great Places process, which began in May with 10 forums throughout the state. More than 1,000 people participated in the forums, where they learned about the opportunity to submit Great Places invitations.

A list of Great Places invitations follows. Invitations can be viewed at www.iowagreatplaces.gov.

Place Name

Adair County
 Adams County
 Adel
 Adult Day Health Centers (Cedar Rapids, Marion, Iowa City)
 Amana Colonies
 Anamosa
 Ankeny to Woodward Destination Trail
 Beaverdale Neighborhood
 Belle Plaine
 Belmond's River Park and Iowa River RV Park
 Brain Belt
 Carroll
 Cascade
 Cedar Rapids (First Avenue)
 Cedar Valley LifeWays
 Celtland
 Central City
 Chariton, Iowa and Lucas County
 Charles City
 Cherokee County
 City of Montrose
 Clarke County
 Clayton County
 Clear Lake Area
 Clinton
 Coon Rapids/Middle Raccoon River Valley
 Council Bluffs (Bed and Breakfast)
 Council Bluffs (Downtown Commercial Area)
 Council Bluffs (Early Care and Education Center)
 Council Bluffs (Historical)
 Council Bluffs (Missouri Riverfront)
 Council Bluffs (Railroad)
 Creative Corridor
 Creative Economy Theme Park

Location

Adair County
 Adams County
 Adel
 Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Marion
 Amana Colonies
 Anamosa
 Ankeny, Madrid, Sheldahl, Slater and Woodward
 Des Moines
 Belle Plaine
 Belmond
 Statewide
 Carroll
 Cascade
 Cedar Rapids
 Cedar Falls and Waterloo
 Rock Island
 Central City
 Lucas County
 Charles City
 Council Bluffs
 Montrose
 Clark County
 Clayton County
 Clear Lake
 Clinton
 Coon Rapids
 Council Bluffs
 Cherokee County
 Council Bluffs
 Council Bluffs
 Council Bluffs
 Council Bluffs
 Cedar Rapids, Coralville and Iowa City
 Fairfield

Creston/Afton High Lakes Area
Davenport
Decatur County, Ringgold County, Harrison County
Denison
Historic East Village
Des Moines Metro Opera
Downtown Sioux Center
Dubuque (Recreation Center)
Dubuque Historic Riverfront
Dubuque Mississippi River Front (Performing Arts Center)
Elk Horn
Elkader
Emmetsburg
Entry of Sioux City
Fairfield
Fort Dodge
Four Mounds Preserve
Grant
Greater Decorah Area
Greater Estherville Area
Greater Waverly Area
Grinnell
Grundy County
Guttenberg
Hamilton County
Hiawatha
Historic Bonaparte Pottery
Historic Valley Junction Business District
Historical Hills Corridor in Southwest Iowa
Hole in the Hills at Wa-Shawtee
Howard and Mitchell Counties
Howard County
Humboldt County
Indian Creek Nature Center
Ingersoll Avenue Improvement Plan
Iowa Ideas
Iowa State University (Greek Community)
Iowa Writers, Composer and Artists Road
Iowa's Great River Road
Iowa's Post Offices
Jackson County
Keokuk County
Lake City
Lake View
LaPorte City FFA Historical and Ag Museum
Limestone Bluffs
Loess Hills
Logan
Louisa County

Creston
Davenport
Decatur and Ringgold Counties
Denison
Des Moines
Indianola
Sioux Center
Dubuque
Dubuque
Dubuque
Elk Horn
Elkader
Emmetsburg
Sioux City
Fairfield
Fort Dodge
Dubuque
Grant
Decorah
Estherville
Waverly
Grinnell
Grundy County
Guttenberg
Hamilton County
Hiawatha
Bonaparte
West Des Moines
Appanoose, Clark, Monroe, Davis, Van Buren, Decatur,
Wapello, Lucas, and Wayne Counties
Fremont County
Howard and Mitchell Counties
Howard County
Humboldt
Cedar Rapids
Des Moines
Statewide
Ames
Statewide
Allamakee, Clayton, Clinton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Jackson,
Lee, Louisa, Muscatine and Scott Counties
Statewide
Jackson County
Keokuk County
Lake City
Lake View
La Porte City
Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones
Counties
Loess Hills
Logan
Louisa County

MAASDAM Barns	Jefferson County
Madison County	Madison County
Maharishi Vedic City	Vedic City
Manning	Manning
Margaret Bock Housing	Cedar Rapids
Marion	Marion
Marshalltown	Marshalltown
Midwest Partnership Region	Adair, Greene and Guthrie Counties
Monroe County	Monroe County
Monticello	Monticello
Moorhead Park/Ida Grove	Ida Grove
Motor Mill Town in Clayton County	Clayton County
Mount Pleasant	Mount Pleasant
Muscatine	Muscatine
New Hampton	New Hampton
Newton	Newton
North Iowa (Mason City area and Clear Lake area)	Clear Lake and Mason City
Northeast Rural Communities Consortium	Hazelton, Independence and Oelwein; Buchanan and Fayette Counties
O'Brien County	O'Brien County
Olin's Town Square	Olin
Oskaloosa	Oskaloosa
Ottumwa	Ottumwa
Pella	Pella
Perry	Perry
Pomeroy	Pomeroy
Postville	Postville
Princeton	Princeton
Red Oak	Red Oak
Reinbeck	Reinbeck
Riceville	Riceville
Rockdale Drive-In Theatre and Entertainment Duplex in Dubuque	Dubuque
Safari Hills	Waterloo
Sanborn Community	Sanborn
Santa's Children Christmas Village	Macedonia
Saylorville Lake Recreation Area	Saylorville Lake Recreation Area
Shelby County	Shelby County
Simpson College (Blank Performing Arts Center)	Indianola
Simpson House and Barn	Johnston
Sioux Center's Heritage Village	Sioux Center
Sioux City (Floyd Boulevard Local Food Market)	Sioux City
Southwest Iowa Wineries and Vineyards	Loess Hills
Spirit Lake	Spirit Lake
State Center	State Center
Storm Lake	Storm Lake
Story City	Story City
Strawberry Point	Strawberry Point
Surf Ballroom	Clear Lake
Swaledale Bio-Village	Swaledale
The Bettendorf Mansion	Bettendorf

The Great Waters and Great Prairies of Clay and Dickinson Counties	Clay and Dickinson Counties
The Valley	Clermont, Elgin, Wadena
Trimble-Parker Historic District (Davis County)	Davis County
Twin Lakes	Calhoun County
Villages of Van Buren	Van Buren County
Warren County	Warren County
Washington	Washington
Wayne County	Wayne County
Webster City	Webster City
Webster County	Webster County
West Branch	West Branch
White Pole Road	Adair, Casey, Dexter, Menlo and Stuart
Whiting	Whiting